

Microscopic linear response calculations based on the Skyrme functional plus the pairing contribution

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Abstract

A self-consistent Quasiparticle-Random-Phase-Approximation (QRPA) model which employs the canonical Hartree-Fock-Bogoliubov (HFB) basis and an energy-density functional with a Skyrme mean field part and a density-dependent pairing, is used to study the monopole collective excitations of spherical even-even nuclei. The influence of the spurious state on the strength function of the isoscalar monopole excitations is clearly assessed. We compare the effect of different kinds of pairing forces (volume pairing, surface pairing and mixed pairing) on the monopole excitation strength function. The energy of the Isoscalar Giant Monopole Resonance (ISGMR), which is related to the nuclear incompressibility K_∞ , is calculated for tin isotopes and the results are discussed.

PACS numbers: 24.30.Cz, 21.60.Jz, 21.30.Fe, 27.60.+j

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I. INTRODUCTION

The nuclear structure community have made great achievements in understanding the structure of the ground state and of the excited states of stable atomic nuclei. As radioactive beams provide more experimental results on the nuclei far from the stability valley, the challenge is how to extrapolate the theoretical models and predict or describe in detail the exotic properties of the nuclei with large neutron or proton excess. Another challenge is the prediction of the properties of nuclear matter in a broad range of densities, i.e., in connection with neutron stars, and to understand the origin of these new properties.

For medium-mass and heavy nuclei, the most microscopic models that we can use are the mean field models based on the effective interactions, either in the non-relativistic or relativistic framework. For closed shell nuclei, Hartree-Fock (HF) theory has already been proven to be a powerful tool to describe the properties of ground states [1], in particular using the zero-range Skyrme interactions [2, 3, 4, 5, 6]. In the open shell nuclei, the effect of nuclear pairing shows up. A simple theory for the ground-state pairing is HF+Bardeen-Cooper-Schriffer (BCS)[7]. The nuclei close to the neutron or proton drip lines, may exhibit some very unusual features such as the neutron or proton skin [8] and the neutron haloes [9]. In these very neutron-rich or proton-rich nuclei, nuclear pairing plays a crucial role for the theoretical understanding of these new phenomena [10, 11, 12, 13, 14]. A more appropriate theory is the HFB approach [1] because the pairing component can no longer be treated as a residual interaction, i.e., a small perturbation important only in the neighborhood of the Fermi surface, as in the nuclei close to the line of beta stability. This is seen from the approximate HFB relations between the Fermi level λ , pairing gap Δ , and the particle separation energy s : $s \approx -\lambda - \Delta$, since s is very small and $\lambda + \Delta \approx 0$, for drip-line nuclei. Consequently, the mean field characterized by λ and the pairing field Δ are equally important. Using appropriate effective interactions in mean field and pairing field, the HFB approach is already sophisticated enough to allow precise analysis of ground state properties, i.e., binding energies, average neutron pairing gaps, etc., in most nuclei either using the Skyrme force plus a density-dependent pairing force [15] or the finite-range pairing force [16, 17].

Studying the nuclear collective excitations is another important tool to understand the structure of nuclei and predict the exotic properties of nuclei far from stability valley or the

properties of nuclear matter. The QRPA is a standard method for describing these collective excitations in open-shell superconducting nuclei with stable mean field solutions [1, 18]. Important nuclear collective excitations are the nuclear compressional modes – particularly the ISGMR – which provide the optimal route to determine the nuclear incompressibility [19, 20, 21]. Both non-relativistic RPA [22, 23, 24] and relativistic RPA or QRPA [25, 26] were recently used in studying the nuclear collective excitations and the nuclear incompressibility. However, the fully self-consistent QRPA, formulated in the HFB canonical basis, which was introduced and accurately tested using Skyrme energy density functionals and density-dependent pairing functionals in Ref. [27] has not been applied to extract information about the nuclear incompressibility. If the models are characterized by a nuclear incompressibility K_∞ around 230~240 MeV (or 250~270 MeV in the case of relativistic mean field (RMF)), they will give the right ISGMR centroid energies compared with the experimental data in ^{208}Pb [19, 25]. However, with these modes one tends to overestimate the centroid energies in the tin isotopes [24, 26]. Is there any need of more sophisticated considerations for the nuclear pairing in tin ? To answer this question, we study the ground state properties of tin isotopes using the HFB theory with a Skyrme mean field and different kind of pairing forces, and then we apply a self-consistent QRPA model for the ISGMR.

The paper is organized as follows. Section II discusses the QRPA employed in this study. Since the QRPA equation is solved on the canonical HFB basis, in this section we also present a survey of the canonical HFB theory. We mention briefly the meaning and role of self-consistency in the context of RPA and QRPA calculations. In section III, we give the numerical details and the results. In this section, we discuss the method of projecting out the spurious state, the influence of pairing force on the strength function, and in particular, we study the energy of the ISGMR for tin isotopes. The last section contains a short summary and our conclusions.

II. QRPA WITH CANONICAL HFB BASIS

The standard approach for describing collective excitations in magic nuclei is the so-called Random-Phase-Approximation (RPA) with stable mean-field solutions. The extension to open-shell nuclei is the QRPA which includes not only the particle-hole channel (mean field), but also the particle-particle channel (pairing field). The first step in solving the

self-consistent QRPA is to obtain the ground state properties by solving the HFB equations. Since the HFB theory is discussed in details in many textbooks and articles [1, 15], here we just present briefly the HFB theory in canonical basis.

The canonical basis is a particular basis in which the density matrix is diagonal, and the canonical basis wave functions are all localized. Starting from the effective Hamiltonian of a nuclear system, using the variational principle, the HFB equations in the canonical basis are obtained as [15]

$$(h - \lambda)_{\mu\nu}(u_\mu v_\nu + u_\nu v_\mu) + \tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}(u_\mu u_\nu - v_\mu v_\nu) = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$(h - \lambda)_{\mu\nu}(u_\mu u_\nu - v_\mu v_\nu) - \tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}(u_\mu v_\nu + u_\nu v_\mu) = E_{\mu\nu}, \quad (2)$$

where h and \tilde{h} are the particle-hole and particle-particle Hamiltonian in the canonical basis, respectively. λ is the Fermi energy while $E_{\mu\nu}$ represents the HFB Hamiltonian in the canonical basis. The canonical states μ are not eigenstates of the HFB Hamiltonian. The right way to obtain the canonical basis is to solve the HFB equations in the quasiparticle basis to obtain the quasiparticle states, i.e., the quasiparticle wave functions (including the upper and lower components ϕ_1 and ϕ_2) and quasiparticle energies, and then to build the density matrix and to diagonalize it to get the canonical basis [15]. The square of v_μ (u_μ) represent the probability that a certain state μ is occupied (empty). These quantities are solely determined by the diagonal matrix elements of particle-hole and particle-particle Hamiltonians,

$$v_\mu = -\text{sgn}(\tilde{h}_{\mu\mu}) \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{h_{\mu\mu} - \lambda}{2E_{\mu\mu}}}, \quad u_\mu = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{h_{\mu\mu} - \lambda}{2E_{\mu\mu}}}. \quad (3)$$

In the case of spherical symmetry, and without mixing of the proton and neutron states, the quasiparticle wave functions have the good quantum numbers $(nljm)$; n turns out to be a good quantum number because the continuum is discretized inside a spherical box. Furthermore, the radial part of the quasiparticle wave functions can be chosen to be real. Then the quasiparticle wave function can be written as:

$$\phi_i(nlj, \mathbf{r}\sigma) = \frac{u_i(nlj, r)}{r} \sum_{m_l m_s} Y_{m_l}^{(l)}(\hat{r}) \chi_{m_s}^{(\sigma)} \langle lm_l \frac{1}{2} m_s | jm \rangle, \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (4)$$

where $i = 1, 2$ label the upper and lower components of the wave functions. The density matrix elements can be constructed using the lower components of the quasiparticle wave

functions,

$$\rho_{(lj)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \sum_n \phi_2(nlj, \mathbf{r}) \phi_2^*(nlj, \mathbf{r}'), \quad (5)$$

where the sum runs over all the states for a given (l, j) block. We will get the canonical basis after diagonalizing the density matrix.

The QRPA takes the quasiparticle vacuum as the approximate ground state and is aimed at the description of small amplitude, collective excitations. Defining the phonon excitation operators in the angular momentum coupled representation,

$$Q_\nu^\dagger(JM) = \sum_{\alpha \geq \beta} (X_{\alpha\beta}^\nu A_{\alpha\beta}^\dagger(JM) - Y_{\alpha\beta}^\nu A_{\alpha\beta}(\widetilde{JM})) \quad (6)$$

$$Q_\nu(JM) = \sum_{\alpha \geq \beta} (X_{\alpha\beta}^{\nu*} A_{\alpha\beta}(JM) - Y_{\alpha\beta}^{\nu*} A_{\alpha\beta}^\dagger(\widetilde{JM})), \quad (7)$$

where

$$A_{\alpha\beta}^\dagger(JM) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \delta_{\alpha\beta}}} \sum_{m_\alpha m_\beta} \langle j_\alpha m_\alpha j_\beta m_\beta | JM \rangle \alpha_\alpha^\dagger \alpha_\beta^\dagger \quad (8)$$

$$A_{\alpha\beta}(JM) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \delta_{\alpha\beta}}} \sum_{m_\alpha m_\beta} \langle j_\alpha m_\alpha j_\beta m_\beta | JM \rangle \alpha_\beta \alpha_\alpha \quad (9)$$

$$A_{\alpha\beta}(\widetilde{JM}) = (-1)^{J+M} A_{\alpha\beta}(J-M), \quad (10)$$

the QRPA equation can be easily obtained from the linearization of Schrödinger equation,

$$\sum_{\alpha < \beta} \begin{pmatrix} A_{\alpha\beta,\gamma\delta} & B_{\alpha\beta,\gamma\delta} \\ -B_{\alpha\beta,\gamma\delta}^* & -A_{\alpha\beta,\gamma\delta}^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X_{\gamma\delta}^\nu \\ Y_{\gamma\delta}^\nu \end{pmatrix} = E_\nu \begin{pmatrix} X_{\alpha\beta}^\nu \\ Y_{\alpha\beta}^\nu \end{pmatrix}. \quad (11)$$

In the angular momentum coupled representation and canonical HFB basis, the matrix elements $A_{\alpha\beta,\gamma\delta}$ and $B_{\alpha\beta,\gamma\delta}$ have the form [1, 18, 27],

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\alpha\beta,\gamma\delta} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \delta_{\alpha\beta}} \sqrt{1 + \delta_{\gamma\delta}}} \\ &\times [E_{\alpha\gamma} \delta_{\beta\delta} - (-1)^{j_\alpha + j_\beta - J} E_{\beta\gamma} \delta_{\alpha\delta} - (-1)^{j_\alpha + j_\beta - J} E_{\alpha\delta} \delta_{\beta\gamma} + E_{\beta\delta} \delta_{\alpha\gamma} \\ &+ G_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} (u_\alpha u_\beta u_\gamma u_\delta + v_\alpha v_\beta v_\gamma v_\delta) + F_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} (u_\alpha v_\beta u_\gamma v_\delta + v_\alpha u_\beta v_\gamma u_\delta) \\ &- (-1)^{j_\gamma + j_\delta - J'} F_{\alpha\beta\delta\gamma} (u_\alpha v_\beta v_\gamma u_\delta + v_\alpha u_\beta u_\gamma v_\delta)] \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

$$\begin{aligned} B_{\alpha\beta,\gamma\delta} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \delta_{\alpha\beta}} \sqrt{1 + \delta_{\gamma\delta}}} \\ &\times [-G_{\alpha\beta\delta\gamma} (u_\alpha u_\beta v_\gamma v_\delta + v_\alpha v_\beta u_\gamma u_\delta) - (-1)^{j_\delta + j_\gamma - J'} F_{\alpha\beta\delta\gamma} (u_\alpha v_\beta u_\gamma v_\delta + v_\alpha u_\beta v_\gamma u_\delta) \\ &+ (-1)^{j_\alpha + j_\beta + j_\gamma + j_\delta - J - J'} F_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} (u_\alpha v_\beta v_\gamma u_\delta + v_\alpha u_\beta u_\gamma v_\delta)] \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

with

$$G_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = \sum_{m_\alpha m_\beta m_\gamma m_\delta} \langle j_\alpha m_\alpha j_\beta m_\beta | JM \rangle \langle j_\gamma m_\gamma j_\delta m_\delta | J' M' \rangle V_{\alpha\beta,\gamma\delta}^{pp} \quad (14)$$

$$F_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = \sum_{m_\alpha m_\beta m_\gamma m_\delta} \langle j_\alpha m_\alpha j_\beta m_\beta | JM \rangle \langle j_\gamma m_\gamma j_\delta m_\delta | J' M' \rangle V_{\alpha\bar{\beta},\gamma\delta}^{ph}, \quad (15)$$

where $V_{\alpha\bar{\beta}\gamma}^{ph}$ represent the matrix elements of the particle-hole effective interaction, and $V_{\alpha\beta,\gamma\delta}^{pp}$ represent the matrix elements of the particle-particle effective interaction. Actually, in the canonical basis, the equations of HFB+QRPA are almost the same as those of HF-BCS+QRPA, except for the presence of off-diagonal terms related to the quasiparticle energies in the former case.

We remind the reader that self-consistency means, in the RPA context, that the particle-hole residual interaction is obtained as the exact second derivative of the energy functional with respect to the density. Up to quite recently, most of the RPA calculations were *not* fully self-consistent, rather some parts of the residual interaction were neglected. Only full self-consistency allows conservation of the energy-weighted sum rule (EWSR) according to the Thouless theorem [28]. Moreover, in the case of monopole the inclusion of the whole residual interaction is crucial in order to evaluate accurately the energy of the giant resonance [23], and to assess quantitatively the value of K_∞ [19].

In the QRPA framework, self-consistency should mean, in addition to what has been stated for RPA, that the particle-particle residual interaction is obtained as the second derivative of the energy functional with respect to the anomalous density or pairing density. This prescription is obeyed both in HF-BCS+QRPA and in HFB+QRPA. In the former case, however, the model spaces for HF-BCS (which includes, as a rule, only one major shell above the Fermi energy) and for QRPA (which is much larger), differ. In this sense, only HFB+QRPA is, strictly speaking, self-consistent. The Thouless theorem concerning the EWSR obtained within HF plus RPA is also valid for the self-consistent QRPA based on HFB solution as it is demonstrated in Ref. [29].

The fully self-consistent calculation must include the pairing-rearrangement terms in the matrix elements, namely the contribution to the particle-hole interaction coming from the density dependence of the pairing force [27, 30]. In the case of the volume pairing force, there are consequently no pairing-rearrangement terms at all, while in the case of the surface pairing force there exists a contribution from the pairing-rearrangement terms.

We have carefully checked that this contribution has a negligible effect on the ISGMR. For example, the ISGMR centroid energies obtained from the QRPA calculations based on canonical HFB solution without the effects of the pairing-rearrangement using the SKM* force and the surface pairing force are 16.32, 16.13, and 16.0 MeV for ^{112}Sn , ^{116}Sn and ^{124}Sn , respectively. When including the effects of the pairing-rearrangement, the values of the ISGMR centroid energies change to 16.34, 16.11, and 16.02 MeV for ^{112}Sn , ^{116}Sn and ^{124}Sn , respectively. Therefore, in the figures and in the discussion below, we quote results obtained without the pairing-rearrangement terms.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

For the ground state properties of spherical nuclei, the HFB equations are solved in coordinate space in a spherical box. In the particle-hole channel, we use a Skyrme force, i.e., SLy5 [4] or SKM* [6], and in the particle-particle channel, we use a zero-range density-dependent pairing force,

$$v(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) = v_0 \left[1 - \eta \left(\frac{\rho(\frac{\mathbf{r}_1+\mathbf{r}_2}{2})}{\rho_0} \right) \right] \delta(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2), \quad (16)$$

where $\rho_0 = 0.16 \text{ fm}^{-3}$; the values of η are 0, 1, and 0.5 for volume, surface and mixed pairing forces, respectively; the value of v_0 is fixed by fitting the experimental data of the mean neutron gap of ^{120}Sn ($\Delta_n = 1.321 \text{ MeV}$). In the case of the Skyrme force SLy5, $v_0 = -170.92$, -537.05 and -272.99 MeV fm 3 for volume, surface and mixed pairing forces, respectively. In the case of the Skyrme force SKM*, $v_0 = -142.01$, -490.48 and -233.22 MeV fm 3 for volume, surface and mixed pairing forces, respectively. There are some numerical parameters in the actual calculations: (i) We use a high quasiparticle-energy cutoff (200 MeV) and a maximum angular momentum $j_{max} = 15/2$. (ii) The radius of the box is fixed at 20 fm with a small mesh (0.05 fm).

The self-consistency of the HFB+QRPA calculations requires the use in QRPA of a residual force derived from the HFB fields. At the same time, for a real self-consistent calculation, all the quasiparticle states produced by the HFB calculation must be used to build the matrices A and B in the QRPA equation. In actual calculation, there are about 500-600 quasiparticle states in the HFB calculation up to 200 MeV which is the HFB cutoff. Some states with very small values of occupation probability in canonical basis or some

two quasiparticle excitations with very high energy give little contribution to the QRPA spectrum, so we cut off the canonical-basis wave functions by excluding those with very small values of occupation probability and with very high values of single particle energy, and check the convergence of the QRPA solution. Fig. 1 shows the isoscalar 0^+ strength function (averaged with Lorentzians having 1 MeV width) in ^{120}Sn with the Skyrme force SLy5 and the volume pairing force defined above, for different values of cutoff in excitation energy and occupation probability. Comparing the curve with circles with the curve with stars in Fig. 1, we find that the levels with occupation probabilities smaller than 10^{-9} have little influence on the isoscalar 0^+ strength function. Similarly, from the curves with squares, up-triangle, and circles in Fig. 1, we find $E_{cut} = 150 \sim 200$ MeV is a suitable excitation energy cutoff in calculations to make our results stable at the level of 300 keV for the centroid energy. Therefore, in the next calculations, the value of the cutoff on occupation probability is fixed at $v_{cut}^2 = 10^{-9}$, and the excitation energy cutoff is selected as $E_{cut} = 200$ MeV.

A. The spurious state

In the spherical QRPA solution, there exists the problem of a spurious state in the monopole channel due to the particle number symmetry broken by the HFB solution [1]. The spurious state should be orthogonal to all other physical states, and should appear at zero energy. However, in actual calculations the spurious state is at low (but not zero) energy for small numerical inaccuracies, and contributes to the total strength. Therefore, the spurious state must be projected out from the real physical states.

Starting from the actual quasiparticle QRPA set of states $|n\rangle$, we construct a new set of normalized states $|n'\rangle$ which are the real physical states,

$$|n'\rangle = |n\rangle - \alpha_n |s\rangle \quad (17)$$

where $|s\rangle$ is the spurious state. The X - and Y -amplitudes of the spurious state should be proportional to [1]

$$\langle \alpha\beta | N | 0 \rangle = -2\hat{j}_\alpha u_\alpha v_\alpha, \quad (18)$$

where $|\alpha\beta\rangle$ is a pair of canonical states, N is the particle number operator, $|0\rangle$ is the phonon

vacuum state, and $\hat{j} = \sqrt{2j+1}$. α_n is obtained by the condition $\langle n' | N | 0 \rangle = 0$,

$$\alpha_n = \frac{\langle n | N | 0 \rangle}{\langle s | N | 0 \rangle} = - \frac{\sum_{\alpha} (X_{\alpha\alpha} + Y_{\alpha\alpha}) 2\hat{j}_{\alpha} u_{\alpha} v_{\alpha}}{\sum_{\alpha} (2\hat{j}_{\alpha} u_{\alpha} v_{\alpha})^2}. \quad (19)$$

Fig. 2 shows the influence of the spurious state on the isoscalar 0^+ strength function in ^{120}Sn with the Skyrme force SLy5 and the volume pairing force. The spurious state affects the low-lying region as it is expected, while it does not impact the ISGMR at all.

B. The isoscalar 0^+ mode

The ISGMR is an important collective excitation because its excitation energy is related to the nuclear incompressibility K_{∞} . The excitation operator of the ISGMR is $F_{monopole}^{IS} = \sum_{i=1}^A r_i^2$. The macroscopic picture for a state excited by this operator is the so-called “breathing mode”. The strength function is defined as

$$S(E) = \sum_n |\langle n | F_{monopole}^{IS} | 0 \rangle|^2 \delta(E - E_n), \quad (20)$$

and the moments of the strength function are

$$m_k = \int E^k S(E) dE. \quad (21)$$

The centroid energy can be defined as the ratio between the EWSR sum rule m_1 and the non-energy weighted (NEWSR) sum rule m_0 : $E_0 = m_1/m_0$.

The ISGMR has been so far mainly described within the HF+RPA and the HF-BCS+QRPA which have been defined above. In Fig. 3 we show the results for the ISGMR centroid energies in the tin isotopes using HF+RPA (by employing the Skyrme forces SLy5 [4], SGII [5], and SKM* [6]). The centroid energies are evaluated in the energy interval between 10.5 and 20.5 MeV, and the experimental data come from Ref. [31]. Other experiments devoted to the ISGMR in tin isotopes have been reported in Refs. [32]. Their results are also shown, although the centroid energies are evaluated in the energy interval between 10 and 35 MeV. In the present work, we have no clear way to judge the difference between the two experimental results. The trend along the isotope chain is similar for the three forces. The force SLy5 ($K_{\infty} = 233.8$ MeV) gives higher centroid energy than the others (which have K_{∞} around 215 MeV). HF+RPA overestimates the centroid energies by about 1 MeV in all the measured tin isotopes, and there exists a difference by few hundreds

of keV between different Skyrme forces. The force SLy5 reproduces well the monopole energy in ^{208}Pb . The question why it overestimates this energy in the tin isotopes has been raised, as it is recalled in the introduction. If we take pairing into account, by means of the HF-BCS+QRPA, the results are very similar to those from HF+RPA, as it is expected and shown in Fig. 4, which presents the ISGMR centroid energies in the tin isotopes by using SLy5 and the volume pairing force.

One possible guess could be that theoretical models overestimate the centroid energies in the tin isotopes because a more appropriate method to deal with the pairing correlations than HF-BCS+QRPA, i.e., the HFB+QRPA, is needed. As shown in Fig. 4, HFB+QRPA makes the theoretical results significantly closer to experiment, especially in $^{112,114,116}\text{Sn}$. However, this improvement is not enough. The difference between HF-BCS+QRPA (HF+RPA) and HFB+QRPA comes from the fact that in $^{112,114,116}\text{Sn}$, the single particle energies and occupation number of $d3/2$ and $h11/2$ are different for HF-BCS (HF) and HFB, while they are similar in $^{120,122,124}\text{Sn}$. These numbers are shown in Table I.

Already from Fig. 3, it is clear that SKM* performs better than SLy5 in the tin isotopes. Having understood that pairing is also lowering the monopole energies, as a next step we study the isoscalar 0^+ excitations using HFB+QRPA with SKM* in the mean field. At the same time, we would also like to discuss in detail the influence of different kinds of pairing forces on the ISGMR centroid energies. Fig. 5 shows the isoscalar 0^+ strength function (averaged with Lorentzians having 1 MeV width) in ^{120}Sn with the Skyrme force SKM* for different kinds of pairing force. The results with the volume and the mixed pairing force are almost the same, while the results with the surface pairing force are different from the others, especially in the low energy region. This difference comes from the fact that in the ground state HFB calculations, the energies and occupation numbers of the levels around the Fermi surface are very similar for volume and mixed pairing, while they are different for surface pairing. Fig. 6 shows the ISGMR centroid energies in the tin isotopes with SKM* in the mean field and volume and surface pairing forces. Using the SKM* plus surface pairing force, one can reproduce the experimental data obtained at RCNP from ^{112}Sn to ^{120}Sn , while SKM* plus the volume pairing force still overestimates the the centroid energies by about 0.5 MeV. The discrepancy with the experimental findings from Texas A& M remains quite significant.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The fully self-consistent QRPA based on the canonical HFB basis has been introduced by the authors of Ref. [27]. In the present work, we focus on the same model, having developed independently the formalism and the computer codes. Our motivation is the description of the isoscalar monopole excitations. The main novel aspect of this paper is the attempt to understand the anomaly in the experimental ISGMR energies of the Sn isotopes, which cannot be reproduced using effective forces which do reproduce the experimental energy in, e.g., ^{208}Pb ; in other words, our goal is to answer the question raised in Ref. [26], that is, “why is tin so soft ?”.

The model uses the zero-range Skyrme force in the particle-hole channel and the density-dependent pairing force in the particle-particle channel. The spurious state, caused by the fact that the particle number symmetry is broken within HFB and restored in QRPA, is projected out. We investigate the isoscalar 0^+ strength function and the ISGMR centroid energies in the tin isotopes. We have also found that the pairing-rearrangement terms and find they have a negligible effects (about 0.1%) on the ISGMR centroid energies in the tin isotopes. Compared with HF+RPA and HF-BCS-QRPA, HFB+QRPA makes the theoretical results of ISGMR centroid energies in the tin isotopes significantly closer to experiment. Pairing improves the absolute values of energy compared to experiment because of the attractive character of the particle-particle residual interaction. This amounts to say that the “softness” of tin with respect to monopole excitations is to some extent related to pairing.

Using an appropriate Skyrme force like SKM* and surface pairing force, we reproduce the experimental ISGMR centroid energies from ^{112}Sn to ^{120}Sn . The pairing energy in nuclear matter, and consequently the effect of pairing on the nuclear incompressibility K_∞ , is very small. Our results imply therefore that, whereas ^{208}Pb leads to values of K_∞ around $230\sim 240$ MeV, this value is about 10% smaller when Sn experimental data are used. Our results do solve partly the puzzle caused by the RCNP experimental results in the tin isotopes. At the same time, the 10% variation of K_∞ from different nuclei points to our still incomplete understanding of the details of the nuclear effective functionals, in particular of their density dependence. Also in Fig. 8 of Ref. [25], it is evident that RMF calculations fit very well the energies of the monopole in Pb and Sn with two values of K_∞ which differ by $\approx 10\%$.

Further investigations on how to constrain the surface and asymmetry contributions to the final nuclear incompressibility are demanded.

Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge useful discussions with Jun Terasaki. This work is partly supported by the Major State Basic Research Development Program 2007CB815000 as well as the National Natural Science Foundation of China under Grant No. 10435010, 10775004 and 10221003. We also acknowledge support from the Asia Link Programme CN/Asia-Link 008 (94791).

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TABLE I: The single particle energies (MeV) and occupation number of d3/2 and h11/2 in the tin isotopes using the Skyrme force SLy5. In HFB, we use the volume pairing force in particle-particle channel.

A	d3/2						h11/2					
	HF		BCS		HFB		HF		BCS		HFB	
	ϵ	V^2										
112	-8.69	0	-8.63	0.18	-8.33	0.21	-7.14	0	-6.90	0.066	-6.60	0.048
114	-8.74	0	-8.65	0.26	-8.37	0.29	-7.45	0	-7.07	0.089	-6.80	0.067
116	-8.69	0	-8.67	0.36	-8.42	0.40	-7.49	0	-7.23	0.12	-6.98	0.095
118	-8.62	0.5	-8.70	0.48	-8.47	0.54	-7.61	0	-7.35	0.16	-7.11	0.14
120	-8.57	1.0	-8.74	0.64	-8.52	0.68	-7.72	0	-7.46	0.21	-7.22	0.20
122	-8.70	1.0	-8.81	0.78	-8.61	0.80	-7.69	0.17	-7.53	0.29	-7.28	0.29
124	-8.83	1.0	-8.90	0.87	-8.71	0.89	-7.66	0.33	-7.57	0.40	-7.33	0.41

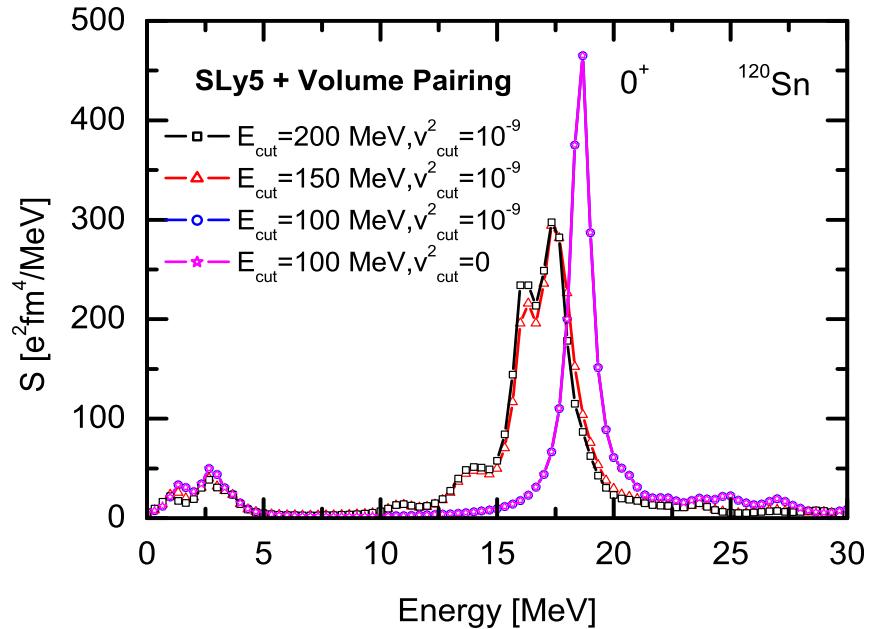


FIG. 1: (Color online) The isoscalar 0^+ strength function (averaged with Lorentzians having 1 MeV width) in ^{120}Sn using the Skyrme force SLy5 and the volume pairing force for different values of single particle energy cutoff and occupation probabilities.

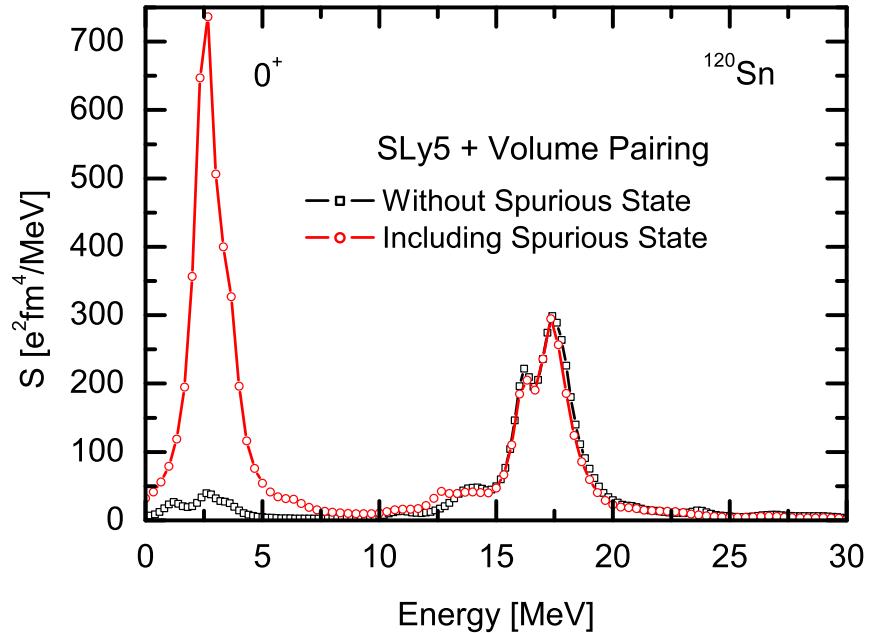


FIG. 2: (Color online) The isoscalar 0^+ strength function (averaged with Lorentzians having 1 MeV width) including spurious state (line with circles) or not (line with squares) in ^{120}Sn using the Skyrme force SLy5 and the volume pairing force.

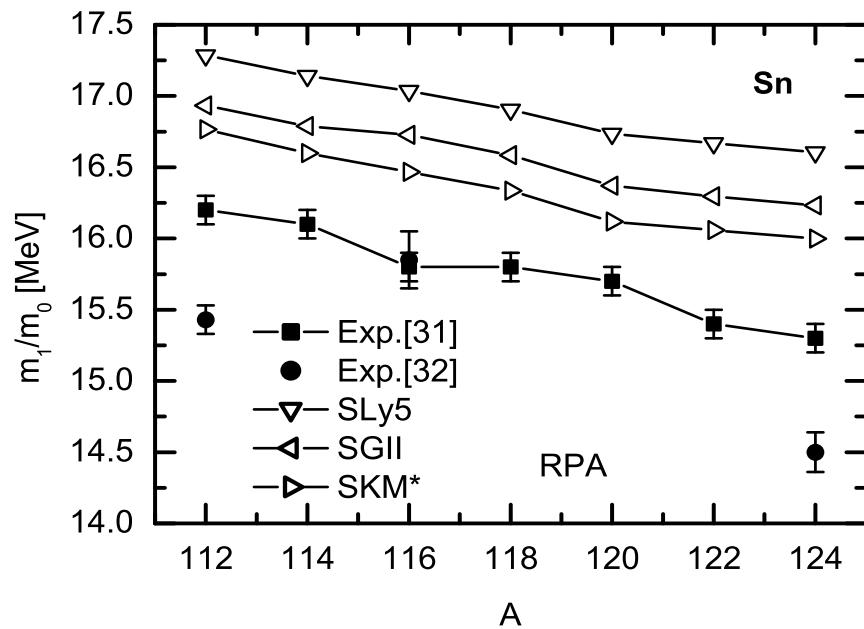


FIG. 3: Systematics of the moment ratios m_1/m_0 for the ISGMR strength distributions in the tin isotopes using Skyrme HF+RPA. They are evaluated in the energy interval between 10.5 and 20.5 MeV. The experimental data are extracted from Ref. [31, 32]

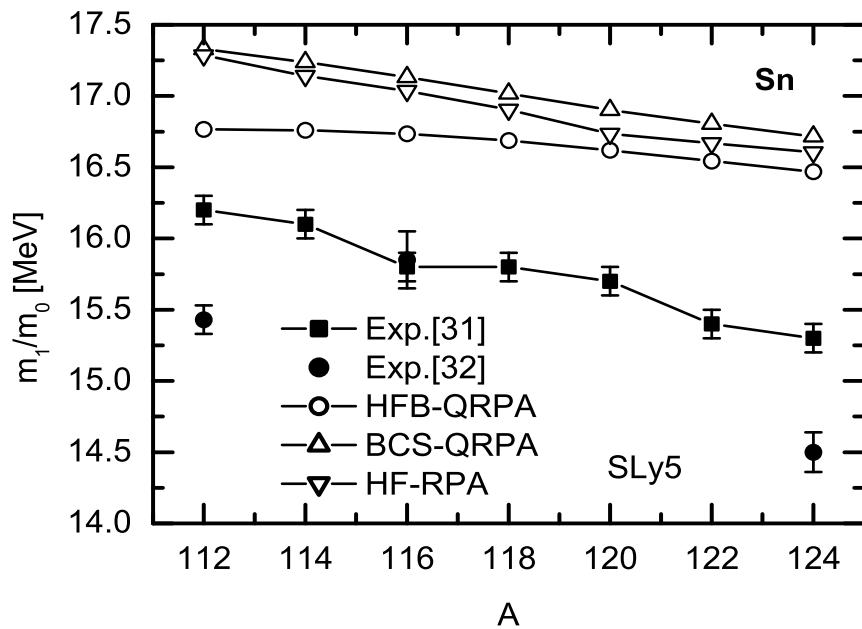


FIG. 4: Systematics of the moment ratios m_1/m_0 for the ISGMR strength distributions in the tin isotopes. They are evaluated in the energy interval between 10.5 and 20.5 MeV.

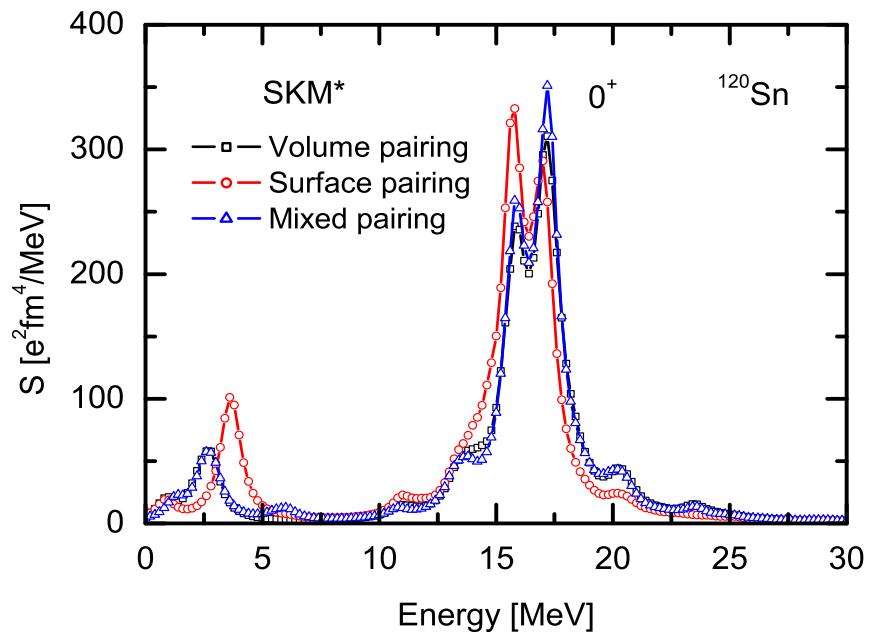


FIG. 5: (Color online) The isoscalar 0^+ strength function (averaged with Lorentzians having 1 MeV width) in ^{120}Sn with the Skyrme force SKM* for different kinds of pairing forces.

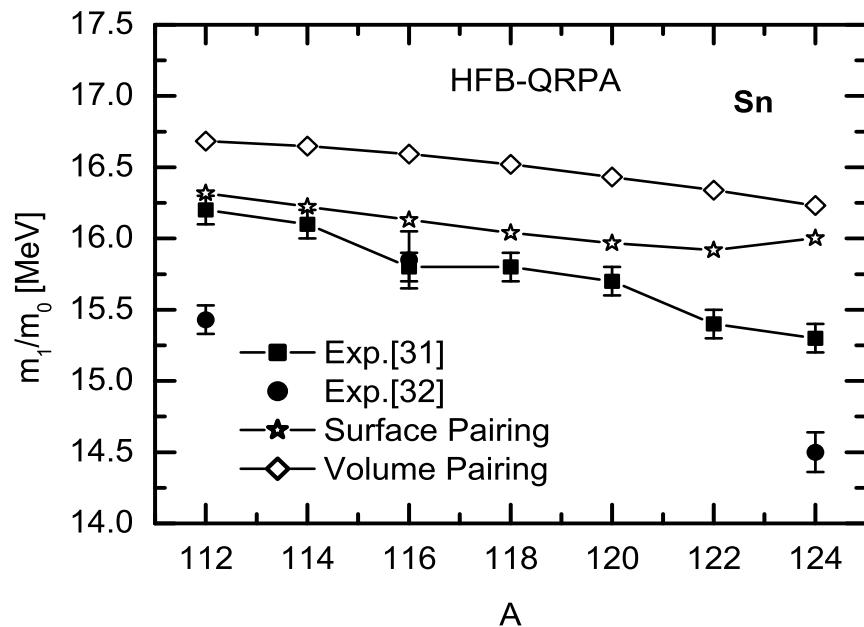


FIG. 6: Systematics of the moment ratios m_1/m_0 for the ISGMR strength distributions in the tin isotopes using HFB+QRPA with the Skyrme force SKM* and volume and surface pairing forces. They are evaluated in the energy interval between 10.5 and 20.5 MeV.